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Dredging

Birding at Dredged Material Placement Sites

It's long been known that Maryland Department of Transportation's Port Administration's (MPA's) dredged material management sites attract birds. In 2016, four of those sites ranked among the state's top birding hotspots, according to the popular birding website, [eBird](#). It's a remarkable testament to the habitat value of these sites!

The eBird website, managed by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, collects public reports for bird sightings across the world and ranks sites according to the number and diversity of birds found at each location.

Maryland rankings for 2016 include four MPA dredged material placement sites, two with top honors:

- #1: [Cox Creek](#) (213 observed species)
- #2: [Hart-Miller Island](#) (212 observed species)
- #14: [Poplar Island](#) (180 observed species)
- #31: [Masonville](#) (160 observed species)



Birders visit these sites during [pre-arranged tours](#) or from publicly accessible areas, including the Swan Creek wetlands at Cox Creek, Masonville Cove trails, and Hart-Miller Island State Park.

From top left clockwise: A winter wren, orchard oriole, green heron, and fox sparrow seen at Swan Creek Wetlands at Cox Creek in 2016. Photo Credit: MES

CAD Project Demonstrates Dredged Material Placement Technique

The MPA is hard at work on its newest demonstration project for managing dredged material—an innovative placement technique called Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD). CAD has proven to

be successful in other ports and is being tried for the first time in Maryland.

CAD involves creating an underwater cell by dredging sand and sediment from the river bottom and reusing it elsewhere. The cell is then filled with dredged material.

The MPA’s demonstration project is located next to the [Masonville dredged material placement site](#). The cell was completed in the fall of 2016 and will be filled with approximately 73,000 cubic yards of material dredged from Baltimore Harbor's Ferry Bar channel this winter. The sand dredged to create the cell is being used to fill the old Kurt Iron & Metal slip so that it can be used as valuable terminal space.



Extensive monitoring and analysis will identify any impacts to water quality and determine the practicality of using CAD in the future.

The CAD demonstration project is located next to the Masonville dredged material placement site. Photo Credit: MPA

Environment

Stakeholder Meeting Explores Perspectives on Diesel Emissions

The Maryland Environmental Health Network and MPA recently hosted a gathering of approximately 30 community, business, state agency, health, union and environmental representatives to discuss reducing air pollution from diesel emissions.

The meeting was a valuable opportunity for sharing perspectives, networking, and exchanging information.

Delegate Clarence Lam, from District 12 representing areas of Baltimore and Howard Counties, was among the participants. “The point wasn’t to propose something new, but to have the participants — many of whom had never met — explore questions relating to who they represented, why reducing emissions is difficult, and what additional information might be helpful,” Lam said.

Organizers aimed to include people with as many perspectives as possible for an open-ended discussion.

“When you bring people together without anything on the table, most of the time you will find solutions that are good for all of the participants,” said consultant Bob Hoyt of the EcoLogix Group. “You can find that win-win-win.”

The group plans to meet again and explore next steps.

‘Jellyfish’ Technology treats Stormwater at Fairfield Terminal

The MPA has installed a new state-of-the-art stormwater treatment system as part of the redevelopment of the Fairfield Marine Terminal.

The underground system, known as the Jellyfish®, treats stormwater for pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, trash, and metals before the water is discharged into the Patapsco River.



Stormwater runoff is directed through a pipe into the Jellyfish, which is 12 feet tall and 12 feet in diameter. First, the water is pushed into a chamber that traps oil, trash, and debris. Then the water is forced through a filtration system, which is a high-performance membrane with tentacles that remove fine sand, silt, nitrogen, phosphorus, metals, and hydrocarbons.

The unit can treat stormwater runoff from a three-acre area.

The filtering media on a device called the Jellyfish® will remove pollutants from stormwater runoff before it enters the Patapsco River. Photo Credit: MPA

Cooperative Efforts for Clean Air

A year ago, the MPA and other state agencies entered into a voluntary cooperative agreement to improve air quality, reduce energy consumption and identify potential funding sources.

As part of this initiative, a workgroup of port partners is evaluating the age of trucks serving the port and implementing programs to replace older trucks and equipment with newer, clean diesel trucks and equipment, as well as the feasibility of switching to electric vehicles and equipment. Also, the Environmental Defense Fund assisted the MPA by analyzing technologies for reducing emissions from ships berthed at Baltimore terminals.

The MPA’s participation in the cooperative agreement enhances its existing efforts toward clean air and energy reduction, including the successful [Dray Truck Replacement Program](#). The overall goal is to reduce the impacts of air emissions on communities close to the marine terminals and throughout the greater Baltimore area.

The MPA is moving proactively to reduce air emissions, as ports across the nation determine their environmental impacts on surrounding communities and implement steps to reduce emissions.

Community

Baltimore Port Alliance Lends a Hand

Working with [Blue Water Baltimore](#) and community residents, members of the [Baltimore Port Alliance](#) recently volunteered time to plant perennials in the newly installed rain gardens at the St. Helena Community Association parking lot and to help seal the roof of the community association building.



Blue Water Baltimore implemented this project with funding from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources’ Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Trust Fund. It included the installation of three rain gardens, other bio-retention practices, and the repaving of the parking lot, all of which will treat more than 15,000 square feet of stormwater runoff.

Volunteers from Ports America Chesapeake included Solomon Egbe and his daughter, Whitney. Photo Credit: EcoLogix

MPA Deputy Executive Director Kathy Broadwater Retires

The Maritime community is bidding farewell to MPA's longtime Deputy Executive Director, M. Kathleen Broadwater.

Kathy came to the MPA in 1996 after stints in the shipping industry and consulting. During her 21 years at MPA, Kathy oversaw the development of an outreach and community engagement effort that has built strong public support for port projects. She also led MPA's efforts to become a “green port” that gives shared priority to protecting environmental and public health, engaging with communities, and achieving business goals.



Under Kathy’s leadership as Deputy Executive Director, the Maryland Port Administration received numerous awards from organizations such as The Coastal America Partnership, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region III), the American Association of Port Authorities, the National Association of Environmental Professionals, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Maryland Department of Transportation, The Dundalk Renaissance Corporation, The Greater Baltimore Committee and the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore. In addition, Kathy was named Port Woman of the Year in 2002 by the Women in Maritime History Committee.

Kathy retired at the end of January; her leadership and ready smile will be missed.

MPA’s longtime Deputy Executive Director, M. Kathleen Broadwater, retired in January. Photo Credit: MPA

Upcoming Events

DMMP Citizens Advisory Committee - February 8th at 6:30PM

Pt. Breeze Maritime Center I

2200 Broening Highway Baltimore, MD 21224
(Snow Date: February 15th)

DMMP Management Committee - March 15th at 10:00AM

World Trade Center
401 E. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21202
Please RSVP at greenport@marylandports.com

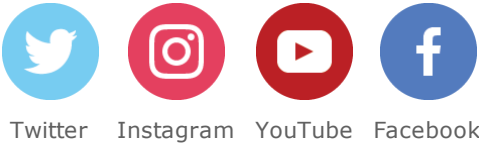
Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee - March 21st at 7:00PM

Pt. Breeze Maritime Center I
2200 Broening Highway Baltimore, MD 21224

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GreenPort Newsletter is the Maryland Department of Transportation Port Administration’s bi-monthly update of projects and programs that help the agency contribute to a thriving economy, environmental stewardship, and community partnerships. As always, we thank the many private sector businesses, government leaders, communities, and individual citizens who have helped make these achievements a reality. www.marylandports.com

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